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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/816,841	04/05/2004	Rakesh Thakor Patel	12351-12	2711

1059 7590 06/24/2009

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EXAMINER	
ZHU, BO HUI ALVIN	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2419	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/24/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/816,841	PATEL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	BO HUI A. ZHU	2419	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *25 March 2009*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1, 2, 4 - 6, 9 – 11, 14, 16 – 22 and 24 – 36* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *14 and 16 - 20* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 21, 22 and 24 - 36* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) *5,6 and 11* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on March 25, 2009 has been entered.

Claims 1, 2, 4 - 6, 9 – 11, 14, 16 – 22 and 24 – 36 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 21, 22 and 24 - 36 are rejected.

Claims 14 and 16 - 20 are allowed.

Claims 5, 6 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

The objection to the abstract has been withdrawn in view of the amendment to the abstract.

The 112 2nd paragraph rejections of claims 9 – 13, 23, 27 and 28 have been withdrawn in view of the amendment to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 21, 22, 25 - 28 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 21, the subject matter "the input processor control signals" lacks sufficient antecedence basis. All of the dependent claims of claim 21 are rejected as well for the same reason. In claim 25, the subject matter "the global identification code of each packetized signal packet" lacks

sufficient antecedence basis. All of the dependent claims of claim 25 are rejected as well for the same reason. In claim 36, the subject matter "the output processor control signals" lacks sufficient antecedence basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks et al. (US 7,269,841) in view of Schaub et al. (US 7,190,695).

(1) with regard to claim 1:

Hendricks et al. discloses a system and method comprising: (a) receiving a plurality of input signals (86, Fig. 7); (b) buffering each of the input signals in a memory system (142, Fig. 7); (c) processing at least one of the input signals to provide a processed signal and buffering the processed signal in the memory system (DEMUX 144 processes the input signals 86 to provide processed signals); (d) designating at least some of the input signals as packet source signals (selecting device 140 selects input signals as packet source signals; see e.g. column 13, lines 19 - 36).

Hendricks et al. does not disclose the feature of assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code; retrieving at least one of the packet

source signals and generating a packetized signal wherein the packetized signal includes a series of packetized signal packet, wherein each of the packetized signal packets contains the global identification code of one of the packet source signals and data corresponding to the same packet source signal; wherein each of the one or more packetized signals may be further processed using the unique global identification code of each packetized signal packet to produce one or more output signals.

Schaub et al. teaches assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code; retrieving at least one of the packet source signals and generating a packetized signal wherein the packetized signal includes a series of packetized signal packet, wherein each of the packetized signal packets contains the global identification code of one of the packet source signals and data corresponding to the same packet source signal (e.g. see Fig. 1 and column 2, lines 7 - 45, i.e. data signal of a set is transmitted in a series of packets over a communication link; each packet is assigned A, B, C or D to specify the set it belongs to; a set of packets can be defined as a group of packet having e.g. the same flow, MAC address, or IP address, etc.).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code; retrieving at least one of the packet source signals and generating a packetized signal wherein the packetized signal includes a series of packetized signal packet, wherein each of the packetized signal packets contains the global identification code of one of

the packet source signals and data corresponding to the same packet source signal as shown in Schaub et al. in order to increase transmission capacity.

Lebizay et al. teaches packetized signals are processed using a unique global identification code of each packetized signal packet to produce one or more output signals (410, Fig 4; paragraph [0031], [0032]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of each of the one or more packetized signals may be further processed using the unique global identification code of each packetized signal packet to produce one or more output signals as shown in Lezibay et al. so as to provide quality of service to network traffic and make switching of network traffic more efficient.

(3) with regard to claim 29:

Hendricks et al. further discloses processing at least one of the input signals to provide one or more processed signals and buffering the processed signal in the memory system (DEMUX 144 processes the input signals 86 to provide processed signals); and designating at least some of the input signals or the processed signal as packet source signals (selecting device 140 selects input signals as packet source signals; see e.g. column 13, lines 19 – 36).

(3) with regard to claims 31:

Hendricks et al. in view of Schaub et al. discloses all of the subject matter as discussed above in the rejection of claim 29. Hendricks et al. further discloses the

processing step includes compressing one of the input signals to provide a processed signal (108, Fig. 5b).

6. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks et al. (US 7,269,841) in view of Schaub et al. (US 7,190,695) and further in view of Wager et al. (US 6,519,223).

(1) with regard to claim 2:

Hendricks et al. in view of Schaub et al. discloses all of the subject matter as discussed above in the rejection of claim 1. However, Hendricks et al. does not disclose the feature of each of packet source signals comprises a series of packet source signal packets, and wherein each of packetized signal packets is formed by retrieving one or more the packet source signal packets corresponding to a single packet source signal, extracting data from the retrieved packets, recording the global identification code of the single packet source signal and at least a portion of the extracted data in the packetized signal packet.

Schaub et al. teaches each of packetized signal packets is formed by retrieving one or more the packet source signal packets corresponding to a single packet source signal (A, B, C or D packet set each represents a packet source signal), extracting data from the retrieved packets, recording the global identification code of the single packet source signal and at least a portion of the extracted data in the packetized signal packet (each packet of a packet set contains a identifier that specify its packet set, and a portion of payload).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of each of packetized signal packets is formed by retrieving one or more the packet source signal packets corresponding to a single packet source signal, extracting data from the retrieved packets, recording the global identification code of the single packet source signal and at least a portion of the extracted data in the packetized signal packet as shown in Schaub et al. in order to increase transmission capacity.

Wager et al. teaches the feature of each of packet source signals (210, Fig. 2) comprises a series of packet source signal packets (215, Fig. 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of each of packet source signals comprises a series of packet source signal packets as shown in Wager et al. in order to improve transmission reliability.

7. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks et al. (US 7,269,841) in view of Schaub et al. (US 7,190,695) and further in view of Westberg (US 2003/1098226).

(1) with regard to claim 4:

Hendricks et al. in view of Schaub et al. discloses all of the subject matter as discussed above in the rejection of claim 1. However, Hendricks does not disclose each of packetized signal packets includes a global identification code, packet sequencing information and a data payload.

Schaub et al. teaches each of packetized signal packets includes a global identification code and a data payload (e.g. see Fig. 1 and column 2, lines 7 - 45, i.e. data signal of a set is transmitted in a series of packets over a communication link; each packet is assigned A, B, C or D to specify the set it belongs to; a set of packets can be defined as a group of packet having e.g. the same flow, MAC address, or IP address, etc).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of each of packetized signal packets includes a global identification code and a data payload as shown in Schaub et al. in order to increase transmission capacity.

Westberg teaches a packet includes packet sequencing information (paragraph [0043]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of each of packetized signal packets includes a sequencing information as shown in Westberg in order to allow segmented data packet to be reassembled without error.

8. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks et al. (US 7,269,841) in view of Schaub et al. (US 7,190,695) and further in view of Gryskiewicz (US 6,937,291).

(1) with regard to claim 30:

Hendricks et al. in view of Schaub et al. discloses all of the subject matter as discussed above in the rejection of claim 29. However, Hendricks et al. does not disclose the processing step includes scaling one of the input signals to provide a processed signal.

Gryskiewicz teaches the feature of scaling input signals to provide a processed signal (see Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of the processing step includes scaling one of the input signals to provide a processed signal as shown in Gryskiewicz so as to have flexibility in changing the size and dimension of the output signal as well as to avoid aliasing artifacts of video signal.

9. Claims 9, 32 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks et al. (US 7,269,841) in view of Schaub et al. (US 7,190,695) and further in view of Libizay et al. (US 2003/0156535).

(1) with regard to claim 9:

Hendricks et al. discloses a system and method comprising: receiving a plurality of input signals (86, Fig. 7); buffering each of the input signals in a memory system (142, Fig. 7); designating at least some of the input signals or the processed signals as packet source signals (selecting device 140 selects input signals as packet source signals; see e.g. column 13, lines 19 - 36); transmitting packetized signal across a communications link (50, Fig. 6a).

Hendricks et al. does not disclose the feature of assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code; retrieving at least one of the packet source signals and generating a packetized signal wherein the packetized signal includes a series of packetized signal packet, wherein each of the packetized signal packets contains the global identification code of one of the packet source signals and data corresponding to the same packet source signal; receiving the packetized signal; extracting each of the packetized signal packets from the packetized signal; buffering each of the packetized signal packets containing the same global identification code in a separate data buffer in an output processor memory system and designating the packetized signal packets in each separate data buffer as an output source signal; producing each of the output source signals by retrieving one or more output source signals and combining the retrieved output source signals.

Schaub et al. teaches assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code; retrieving at least one of the packet source signals and generating a packetized signal wherein the packetized signal includes a series of packetized signal packet, wherein each of the packetized signal packets contains the global identification code of one of the packet source signals and data corresponding to the same packet source signal (e.g. see Fig. 1 and column 2, lines 7 - 45, i.e. data signal of a set is transmitted in a series of packets over a communication link; each packet is assigned A, B, C or D to specify the set it belongs to; a set of packets can be defined as a group of packet having e.g. the same flow, MAC address, or IP address, etc.).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code; retrieving at least one of the packet source signals and generating a packetized signal wherein the packetized signal includes a series of packetized signal packet, wherein each of the packetized signal packets contains the global identification code of one of the packet source signals and data corresponding to the same packet source signal as shown in Schaub et al. in order to increase transmission capacity.

Lebizay et al. teaches receiving the packetized signal (410, Fig. 4) extracting each of the packetized signal packets from the packetized signal (paragraph [0031]); buffering each of the packetized signal packets containing the same global identification code in a separate data buffer in an output processor memory system and designating the packetized signal packets in each separate data buffer as an output source signal (430, Fig. 4; paragraph [0032]); producing each of the output source signals by retrieving one or more output source signals and combining the retrieved output source signals (450, Fig; paragraph [0051]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of receiving the packetized signal; extracting each of the packetized signal packets from the packetized signal; buffering each of the packetized signal packets containing the same global identification code in a separate data buffer in an output processor memory system and designating the packetized signal packets in each separate data buffer as

an output source signal; producing each of the output source signals by retrieving one or more output source signals and combining the retrieved output source signals as shown by Lezibay et al. so as to provide quality of service to network traffic and make switching of network traffic more efficient.

(2) with regard to claim 32:

Hendricks et al. further discloses processing at least one of the input signals to provide one or more processed signals and buffering the processed signal in the memory system (DEMUX 144 processes the input signals 86 to provide processed signals); and designating at least some of the input signals or the processed signal as packet source signals (selecting device 140 selects input signals as packet source signals; see e.g. column 13, lines 19 – 36).

(3) with regard to claim 34:

Hendricks et al. further discloses the processing step includes compressing one of the input signals to provide a processed signal (108, Fig. 5b).

10. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks et al. (US 7,269,841) in view of Schaub et al. (US 7,190,695) and Libizay et al. (US 2003/0156535 and further in view of Wager et al. (US 6,519,223).

(1) with regard to claim 10:

Hendricks et al. does not disclose the feature of each of packet source signals comprises a series of packet source signal packets, and wherein each of packetized signal packets is formed by retrieving one or more the packet source signal packets

corresponding to a single packet source signal, extracting data from the retrieved packets, recording the global identification code of the single packet source signal and at least a portion of the extracted data in the packetized signal packet.

Schaub et al. teaches each of packetized signal packets is formed by retrieving one or more the packet source signal packets corresponding to a single packet source signal (A, B, C or D packet set), extracting data from the retrieved packets, recording the global identification code of the single packet source signal and at least a portion of the extracted data in the packetized signal packet (each packet of a packet set contains identifier A, B, C or D, and a portion of payload).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of each of packetized signal packets is formed by retrieving one or more the packet source signal packets corresponding to a single packet source signal, extracting data from the retrieved packets, recording the global identification code of the single packet source signal and at least a portion of the extracted data in the packetized signal packet as shown in Schaub et al. in order to increase transmission capacity.

Wager et al. teaches the feature of each of packet source signals (210, Fig. 2) comprises a series of packet source signal packets (215, Fig. 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of each of packet source signals comprises a series of packet source signal packets as shown in Wager et al. in order to improve transmission reliability.

11. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks et al. (US 7,269,841) in view of Schaub et al. (US 7,190,695) and Libizay et al. (US 2003/0156535) and further in view of Gryskiewicz (US 6,937,291)

(1) with regard to claim 33:

Hendricks et al. does not disclose the processing step includes scaling one of the input signals to provide a processed signal.

Gryskiewicz teaches the feature of scaling input signals to provide a processed signal (see Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of the processing step includes scaling one of the input signals to provide a processed signal as shown in Gryskiewicz in order to have the flexibility in changing the size and dimension of the output signal as well as to avoid aliasing artifacts of video signal.

12. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks et al. (US 7,269,841) in view of Gryskiewicz (US 6,937,291)

(1) with regard to claim 21:

Hendricks et al. discloses system comprising: a plurality of input ports for receiving a plurality of input signals (86, Fig. 7); a plurality of input signal processors for processing the input signals to provide a processed signal; a packetized signal output stage for retrieving one or more packet source signals from a memory system (142, Fig.

7) and for producing a packetized signal at the packetized signal output port (102, Fig. 7; 148, Fig. 8); an input processor local controller (90, Fig. 7) for controlling the operation of the memory system, signal processors and the packetized signal output stage (50, Fig. 6a);

Hendricks et al. does not disclose a memory system for buffering the input signals; one or more signal processors for retrieving the input signals from the memory system and for processing the input signals to generate processed signals and for storing the processed signals in the memory system.

Gryskiewicz teaches a memory system (18 and 22, Fig. 1) for buffering the input signals (20, Fig. 1) ; one or more signal processors (26, Fig. 1) for retrieving the input signals from the memory system and for processing the input signals to generate processed signals (30, Fig. 1) and for storing the processed signals in the memory system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of memory system for buffering the input signals; one or more signal processors for retrieving the input signals from the memory system and for processing the input signals to generate processed signals and for storing the processed signals in the memory system as shown in Gryskiewicz in order to modify the format of the video signals.

(2) with regard to claim 22:

Hendricks et al. does not disclose the processing step includes scaling one of the input signals to provide a processed signal.

Gryskiewicz teaches the feature of scaling input signals to provide a processed signal (see Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of the processing step includes scaling one of the input signals to provide a processed signal as shown in Gryskiewicz so as to have flexibility in changing the size and dimension of the output signal as well as to avoid aliasing artifacts of video signal.

13. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lebizay et al. (US 2003/0156535) in view of Schaub et al. (US 7,190,695).

(1) with regard to claim 24:

Lebizay et al. discloses a method comprising: receiving one or more incoming packetized signals, each of the packetized signals including a plurality of packetized signal packets (packet ingress, Fig. 4); recording each of the packetized signal packets in a packet storage location (430 and 440, Fig. 4); storing a number of outgoing packetized signals in which each of the packetized signal packets will be included (420, 421 and 422, Fig. 4); instructing a group of packetized signal output stages to read each of the packetized signal packets (450, 451 and 452, Fig. 4), the number of packetized signal output stage corresponding to the number recorded in (c).

Lebizay et al. does not disclose the packetized signal packets are identified with a global identification code.

Schaub et al. teaches packetized signal packets are identified with a global identification code (e.g. see Fig. 1 and column 2, lines 7 - 45, i.e. data signal of a set is transmitted in a series of packets over a communication link; each packet is assigned A, B, C or D to specify the set it belongs to; a set of packets can be defined as a group of packet having e.g. the same flow, MAC address, or IP address, etc.).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hendricks et al. to include the feature of packetized signal packets are identified with a global identification code as shown in Schaub et al. in order to increase transmission capacity.

14. Claims 25 – 28, 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lebizay et al. (US 2003/0156535) in view of Schaub et al. (US 7,190,695).

(1) with regard to claims 25, 35 and 36:

Lebizay et al. discloses a system comprising: a plurality of input stages (301, 302 and 303, Fig. 3), each of the input stages configured to receive an incoming packetized signal (300, Fig. 3) and store packetized signal packets extracted from the packetized signal in a memory system (430, Fig. 4); a plurality of output stages (450, 451 and 452, Fig. 4) each of the output stages configured to read packetized signal packets from the memory system and generate an outgoing packetized signal corresponding to the packetized signal packets read by the output stage (420, 421 and 422, Fig. 4); and a router controller (410, Fig. 4) for controlling the storage of the packetized signal packets

in the memory system and the generation of the outgoing packetized signals in response to router control signals received from a master controller (a traffic-engineering algorithm, [0035]).

Lebizay et al. does not disclose determining the global identification code of each packetized signal packet extracted from the packetized signal, and storing the packetized signal packets based on the unique global identification code.

Schaub et al. teaches determining a global identification code of each packetized signal packet extracted from the packetized signal, and storing the packetized signal packets based on the unique global identification code (102, Fig. 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Lebizay et al. to include the feature of determining the global identification code of each packetized signal packet extracted from the packetized signal, and storing the packetized signal packets based on the unique global identification code as shown in Schaub et al. in order to efficiently distinguish between different categories of incoming signal packets.

(2) with regard to claim 26:

Lebizay et al. further discloses the memory system includes a plurality of packet storage locations (430, Fig. 4) and wherein the router controller includes a storage location table (411, Fig. 4) to manage the usage of the packet storage locations and a global identification code distribution table (460 – 463, Fig. 4) to manage the distribution of packetized signal packets to particular output stages, and wherein the router controller is configured to instruct the input stages to store each packetized signal

packet in a free packet storage location and to instruct each of the particular output stages to read the packetized signal packet from the packet storage location (the classifier 410 controls the storage of signal packets and the output of the signal packets).

(3) with regard to claim 27:

Lebizay et al. further discloses the global identification code distribution table (460, 461 and 462, Fig. 4) identifies the particular output stages to which packets having a particular global identification code are distributed.

(4) with regard to claim 28:

Lebizay et al. further discloses the storage location table (411, Fig. 4) tracks the number of output stages that require a packetized signal packet from each packet storage location and identifies a particular packet storage location as free if no output stage requires a packetized signal packet in the particular packet storage location (the routing table 410 controls the storage of signal packets to a free location in the queue 430 based on the traffic-engineering algorithm).

Allowable Subject Matter

15. Claims 14 and 16 – 20 are allowed.

16. Claim 5, 6 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants' arguments all seem to revolve around the one subject matter that each of the packet source signals is assigned a unique global identification code to give an identity to each of the packet source signals. Applicants contend that the cited references fail to disclose this subject matter as recited in independent claims 1, 9, 14, 21, 24 and 25 (Remarks, page 37, 40, 42, 45, 47, and 49). Examiner respectfully disagrees. Schaub teaches (e.g. see Fig. 1 and column 2, lines 7 – 45) that data signal of a set is transmitted in a series of packets over a communication link; each packet is assigned A, B, C or D to specify the set a packet belongs to; a set of packets is a group of packets having some common attributes e.g. the same flow, MAC address, or IP address, etc. The identifiers A, B, C and D can be viewed as unique global identification codes because each of them represents a unique set of packets, i.e. A represents set A, B represents set B, C represents set C, and D represents set D. Therefore, set identifier A, B, C and D can be viewed as the unique identification codes as required in the claims.

Conclusion

17. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BO HUI A. ZHU whose telephone number is (571)-270-1086. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 10am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on (571)-272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/B. A. Z./
Examiner, Art Unit 2419

/Jayanti K. Patel/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2419